

Two Die in Drowning Accidents Tues.



A 6-year-old youngster, playing on a raft in a North Torrance drainage area, was drowned yesterday afternoon when he apparently fell from the flimsy craft into the deep water.

Gregory Dan Nissen was pronounced dead at Harbor General Hospital in spite of a valiant effort by Torrance police and firemen to save his life. Youngster fell into a sump at 178th St. and St. Andrews Place.

The boy and his mother,

Rene Nissen, both of Whittier, had been visiting friends in this city.

Pulled from the icy water unconscious, the boy was given artificial respiration and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in an effort to revive him. Firemen and police officers worked over the youngster until the ambulance arrived and continued the treatment in the ambulance all of the way to the hospital.

EDITORIAL

Tragic accident occurred

just six days after an editorial appeared in the Torrance Press warning that such an incident could easily occur if "the young Tom Sawyers who found the sumps and flooded areas such an irrisistable playground" were not kept away from them.

Less than an hour after youngster was pulled from the pond a police car was dispatched to the area to chase away another group of boys who were playing in the same place.

Police reiterated their

warning that youngsters found playing in the dangerous places will be taken into custody, transported to the police station and the parents will be called to pick them up.

City councilmen last night indicated that a study would be made to determine why the area was not fenced.

SECOND DROWNING

In a second fatal drowning yesterday, the body of Vivian E. Meadows, 58, was discovered in the

bathtub of his apartment at 1629 1/2 Cabrillo Ave.

Body of the man was discovered yesterday morning by the apartment house's cleaning woman. Tub was full of water and Meadows had apparently been dead for several hours.

Police were investigating the possibility that the elderly man fell asleep in the tub, or slipped and fell.

An autopsy will be performed to determine the actual cause of death.



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CITY OK'S INVESTIGATING NEW CONTRACT SERVICE

Torrance city councilmen last night took some unexpected swipes at agencies with which the city contracts for services.

Councilmen instructed City Manager Wade Peebles to survey the possibility of finding another agency to handle the pound service for the city after additional complaints against the Torrance Humane Society, currently under contract, were lodged.

Humane Society has been the subject of numerous complaints lodged by Torrance residents over the past several months. Complaints have varied from charges that the grounds and buildings at

the pound, located at 20336 Earl St., were allowed to become unkempt to further charges that employees refused to answer calls on weekends.

SMOKE, FIRE

Councilman Willys Blount, commenting acidly that "where there is so much smoke there must be a little fire," suggested that the city ask the operator of the pound if situation could not be straightened out and, if not, terminate the contract.

In a second move councilmen unanimously moved to study complaints against the Goodhue Ambulance Service, and scheduled a meeting of the Police Committee of the council, headed by

Councilman Victor Benstead, City Manager Wade Peebles and Police Chief Percy Bennett for next Friday afternoon.

Charges were brought into the open by councilman J. A. Beasley who pointed out that the ambulance dispatched to the

scene of yesterday's fatal drowning of a 6-year old boy arrived at the location "40 minutes after it was called."

Beasley stated that he had authenticated through the police department numerous cases in which the ambulance had arrived

late after an emergency call.

Contract for the service is granted by the county and, if Friday's meeting determines that complaints are justified, city will probably lodge complaints through county agencies.



FUTILE BATTLE — Torrance firemen waged a futile battle yesterday in a vain attempt to save a 6-year-old youngster who had fallen into a North Torrance drainage area. Youngster, Gregg Nissen, tumbled into a sump at 178th St. and St. Andrews Place from a raft on which he had been play-

ing. Above, stricken mother, Mrs. Rene Nissen of Whittier, watches as firemen attempt to revive the boy. Below, unidentified fireman applies mouth to mouth resuscitation as the youngster is lifted into the ambulance. Boy was pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

Irate Torrance Housewife Finds Answer to City's Pound Service

Mrs. Ethel Kovach, 21730 Barbara St., last night took a dim view of services provided by the Torrance Humane Society in an appearance before the city council.

Mrs. Kovach pointed out that her first contact with the local pound took place recently when a crippled cat, sent to the pound to be put to sleep, was allowed to escape. Society officials, she said, could not account for the cat's disappearance.

Twice before, she stated, stray dogs had appeared in her yard and when she called the Society to pick them up had been told she would have to bring them in.

Instead of taking them to the pound she transported them to the local police station and presented them to the startled desk sergeant. However, she continued, she now had the address of each of the councilmen and

would present any further strays to them in person.

Equally startled councilmen immediately recommended that the city manager seek out other contractors for the service.

"and hurry it up," wryly commented Councilman Victor Benstead, "before each of us has a kennel in our backyards."

Guilty Plea Gets 180-Day Rap

Thirty-nine year old Richard H. Schweiterman, 18902 Kornblum Ave., Torrance, pleaded guilty to felony drunk driving charges last week and was sentenced to 180 days in the Los Angeles County Jail as part of a five-year probation term.

Sentence was pronounced by Judge Allen Miller of the Inglewood Superior Court. The judge dismissed a second charge of felony hit and run driving brought against Schweiterman by Torrance police Dec. 30 after he failed to stop his car when it struck two twelve-year-old pedestrians.



FLAMING CRASH — Three persons were injured in a five car collision last weekend at the corner of Hawthorne Blvd. Station wagon, shown above, driven by Sylvia Cohen, 42, of Gardena, was spun through the intersection by the force of the crash and burst into flames. Hospitalized

were Mrs. Cohen and James Swisher, 23, of 5010 Merle St., Torrance. A passenger in another car, Dennis Berry, 20, suffered minor lacerations but refused hospitalization. Above firemen extinguish blaze as smoke gushes from the open door.

Torrance Police Arrest Duo in Theft Of Steel Bars From Local Freeway Site

Torrance police arrested two Santa Fe Springs iron workers Sunday, on suspicion of stealing almost 8,000 pounds of steel bars from a freeway construction site.

Steel company employees George W. Spiegel, 24, Garden Grove and Lester R. Cooper, 28, of Buena Park, were both booked on suspicion of grand theft.

Fullerton building materials firm became suspicious and notified police when the two men attempted to sell them the steel bars, police said. The loss of 399 bars, each weighing 20 pounds, was reported Friday to police by William R. McCousland, contractor on the San Diego Freeway site at Prairie Ave. near the freeway overpass.

The bars were the property of three separate companies attached to the project.

According to Torrance police, the suspects used bolt cutters to divide the thirty-foot bars into ten and twenty-foot lengths, after which they were loaded into a pickup truck which had been driven up an unpaved on-ramp.



TEACHING CONFERENCE — Torrance educators and teachers took part in last weekend's Good Teaching Conference at South High School. More than 800 representatives from Torrance schools took part in the

seminars and classroom studies that were held during the morning. This is the second annual series of workshops sponsored by the Torrance Unified School District and the Torrance Educational Association.

Hogue Starts Drive; Cicchini Drops Out

Seeks Office of Mayor in April City Elections

Roger P. (Pat) Hogue, 40, member of the Southwest Park Civic Association, and former chairman of the Torrance Youth Baseball Commission, this week launched an all-out campaign for election as mayor of Torrance.

Hogue has served as president, vice president and board member of the civic group and also served as chairman of youth activities for the same organization.

He has been chairman of the Torrance Water Commission and was recently reappointed to the same post.

Chairman of the youth baseball group in 1959 and 1960, he is currently serving on the Y.M.C.A. youth organization.

Hogue was coordinator of the Pop Warner Football Association and a member of the Torrance-Konya city-to-city program. He also worked on the 1959 fund raising program for the annual Rose Parade float and, for three years, served on the float decorating committee.



ROGER P. HOGUE

Local Realtor Drops Campaign For Council Post

James Cicchini, Torrance realtor and candidate for city council, yesterday announced that he was withdrawing from the campaign. Commenting upon the number of qualified candidates that had filed for the post, he said that the press of business made it inexpedient for him to run for the office.

Cicchini is currently vice chairman of the Red Cross drive, is a past secretary of the Torrance Central Little League and is a past steward of the AFL-CIO, National Supply unit.

He is a member of the Torrance Elks, a charter member of the Rolling Hills Lions Club, Torrance Chamber of Commerce member, and is associated with the Madrona Parent - Teachers Association.

Professionally, he is a member of the California Real Estate Association, National Association of Real Estate Brokers, International Association of Real Estate Brokers.



JAMES CICHINI

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